

The Sensational **SPIDER-MAN**

BACK IN BLACK

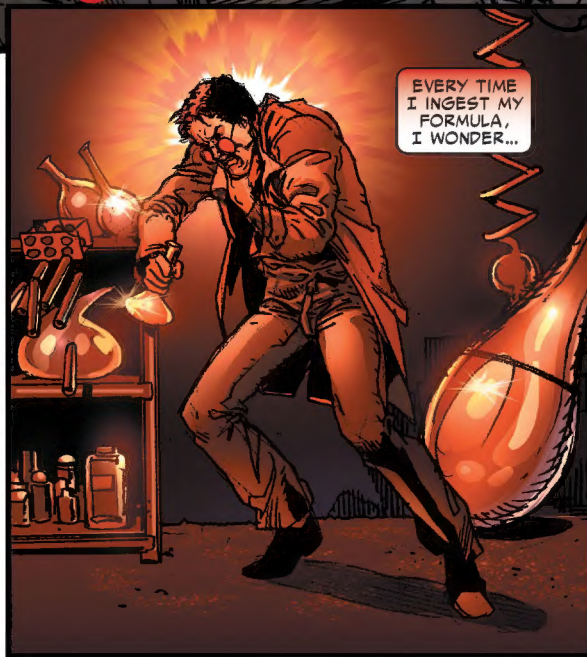


THE STORY GOES: ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON AWOKE FROM A NIGHTMARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--

MADLY, IN A FEVER, HE SCRAWLED OUT WHAT WOULD BECOME HIS GREATEST WORK--

The Strange Case of...

PART
THREE
OF THREE



EVERY TIME
I INGEST MY
FORMULA,
I WONDER...



...HOW DID
HE KNOW?

HOW COULD HE
HAVE DESCRIBED
THE CHANGE
SO ACCURATELY?

GA
AA
HHH



"...THE MOST RACKING PANGS SUCCEEDED: A
GRINDING IN THE BONES, DEADLY NAUSEA, AND
A HORROR OF THE SPIRIT THAT CANNOT BE
EXCEEDED AT THE HOUR OF BIRTH OR DEATH..."

~AHHHHHHH~

~HUH,
HUH~



~HUH,
HUH~

~HUH,
HUH~



"...THEN THESE AGONIES BEGAN SWIFTLY
TO SUBSIDE, AND I CAME TO MYSELF
AS IF OUT OF A GREAT SICKNESS..."

~HAAARRRRRGGGGHHH!!



"...THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE
IN MY SENSATIONS, SOMETHING
INDESCRIBABLY NEW AND, FROM ITS
VERY NOVELTY, INCREDIBLY SWEET..."

...YESSSS...





"...I WAS CONSCIOUS OF A
HEADY RECKLESSNESS..."



"...AN UNKNOWN BUT NOT
AN INNOCENT FREEDOM
OF THE SOUL."



"I KNEW MYSELF,
AT THE FIRST BREATH
OF THIS NEW LIFE..."

"...TO BE MORE WICKED,
TENFOLD MORE WICKED, SOLD A
SLAVE TO MY ORIGINAL EVIL..."

"...I SAW FOR THE FIRST
TIME THE APPEARANCE
OF EDWARD HYDE."



A LITTLE
GAME OF HIDE-
AND-SEEK,
SPIDER-MAN...?

ALL
RIGHT,
THEN.

COME
OUT, COME
OUT--



"--WHEREVER YOU ARE."

This is hell.

BEEP!



I should be by my Aunt May's side, holding her hand, **TALKING** to her.

Trying to **COAX** her out of her coma.

BEEP!



Not **CRAWLING** through some abandoned subway tunnel.

**BEEP!
BEEP!**

Trying to find the maniac who's been creating imperfect **VERSIONS** of me.



Using a **SPIDEY**-rigged tracking device Reed Richards helped me wi...

...HANG ON.

BEEEEEEEEEE

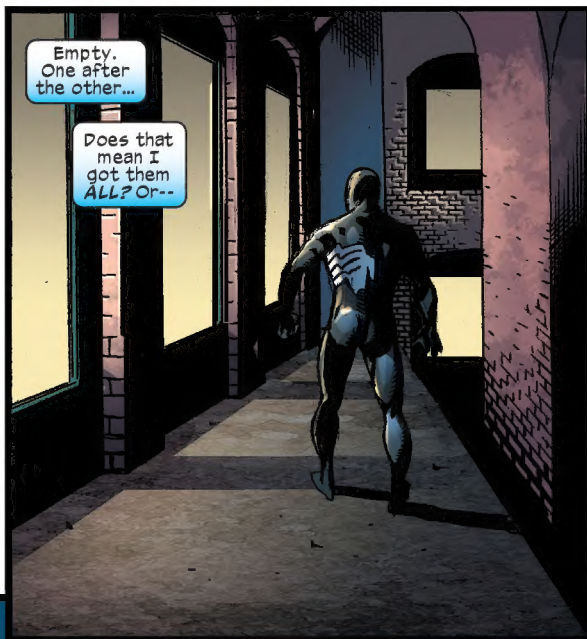


According to this, I just have to round one more corner and...

EEEEEEEEEE

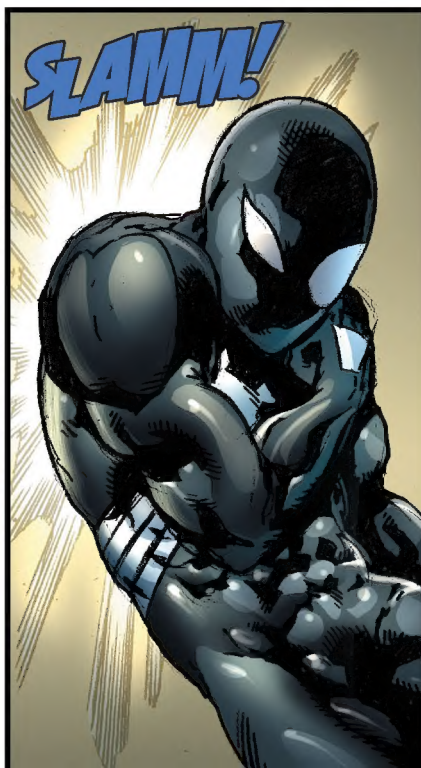
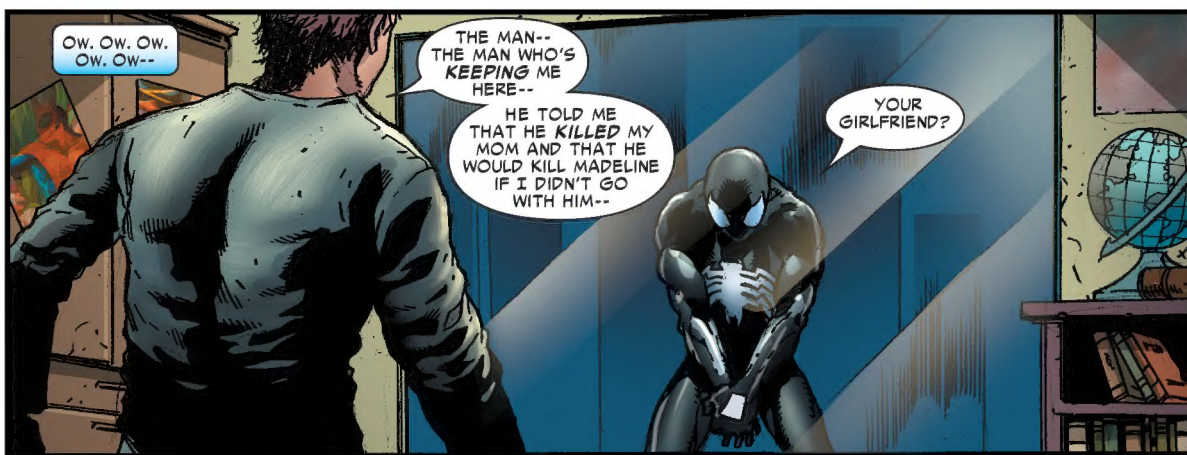


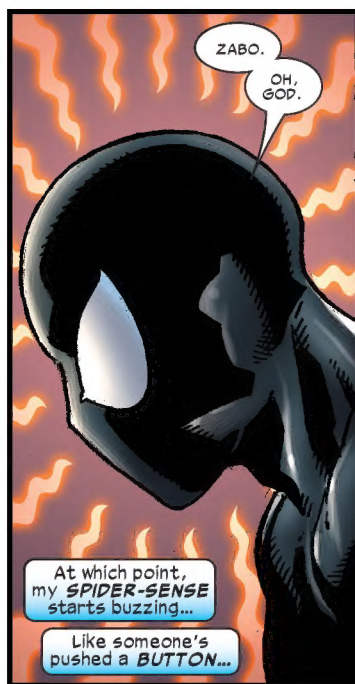
OH,
WOW.



JORDAN?









...NO, THE
DOCTOR IS OUT,
BUT HE ASKED THAT
I DEAL WITH
YOU...

Mr. Hyde.



Insane.

This just gets
more and more
INSANE--



And God **KNOWS**
how Felicia's doing
with cleanup--

HE'S THE
ONLY OTHER
BOY I TURNED UP,
DETECTIVE
FOGG.





MS. HARDY, MRS. HARRISON.

MRS. HARRISON, FELICIA HARDY.



HE TOOK MY BOY. HE TOLD MY JORDAN THAT HE MURDERED ME AND THEN HE TOOK HIM.

THIS... CALVIN ZABO.



HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW?



'CAUSE I WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED. WHEN JORDAN LEFT WITH HIM.

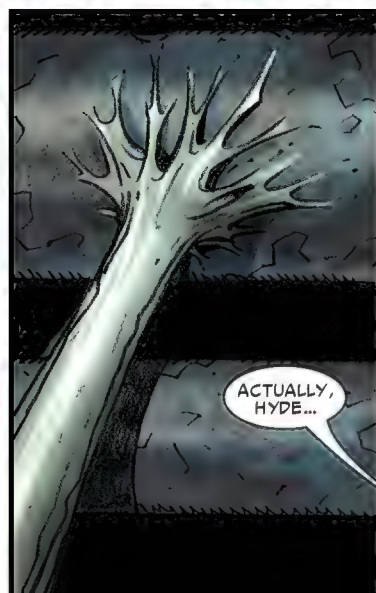
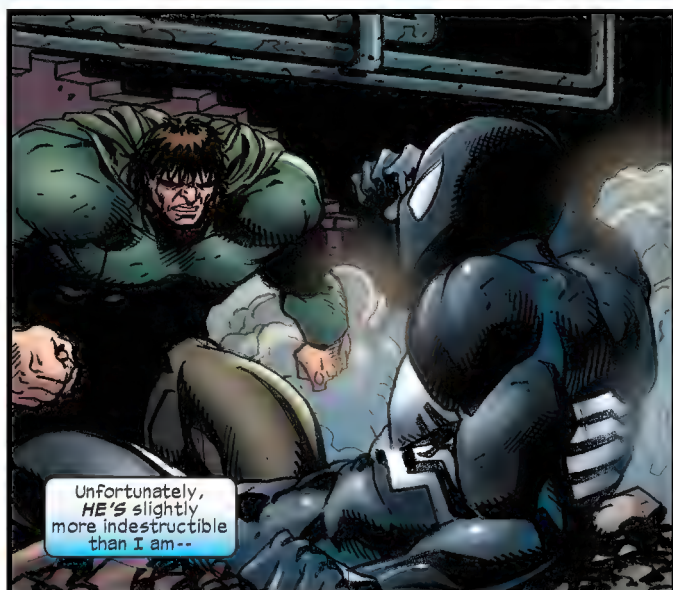
HE TRIED TO TAKE ME, TOO, BUT I GOT AWAY.

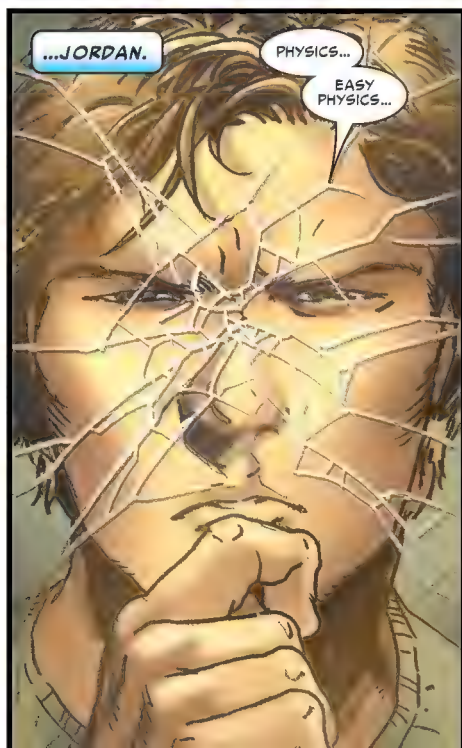
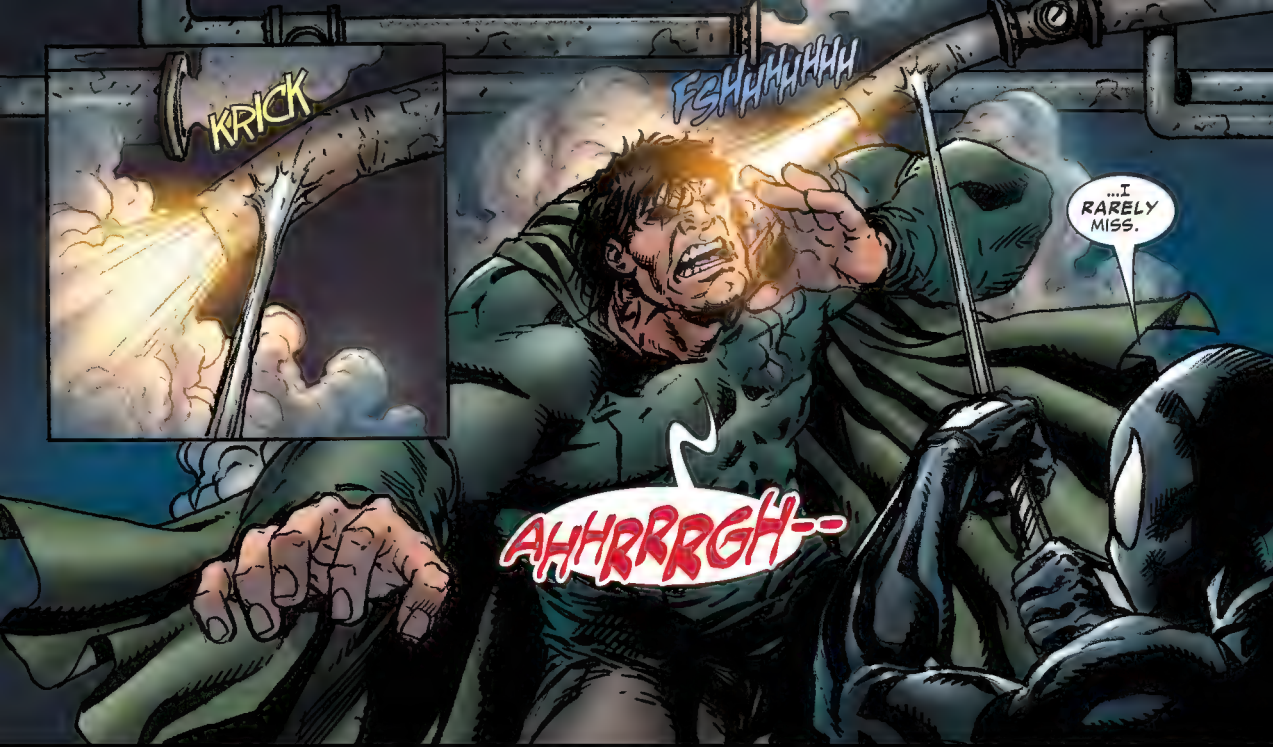


PLEASE. IF YOU KNOW WHERE SPIDER-MAN IS...

TELL HIM HE HAS TO FIND MY SON. AND THAT WHEN HE DOES, HE HAS TO TELL JORDAN...









...AND
SUDDENLY, IT'S NOT SO
INDESTRUCTIBLE--

CRACK!



THE
ITSY-BITSY
SPIDER...
AN ETERNAL
THORN IN MY
ASSOCIATE'S
SIDE...

IS THAT
WHY HE CHOSE
YOU FOR HIS LITTLE
EXPERIMENTS?



IS THAT
WHY HE'S TRYING
TO DISSECT YOUR
PSYCHE?

PEEL BACK THE
LAYERS AND FIND
OUT WHAT MAKES
YOU TICK?



FIND OUT
WHAT DRIVES MEN
LIKE YOU...



BY
ABDUCTING
CHILDREN?

BY
PUMPING
THEM FULL OF
DRUGS?

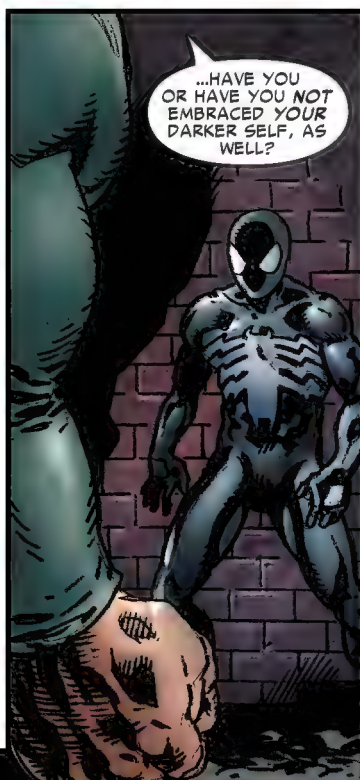




"BECAUSE I BELIEVE
DOING EVIL IS AS
VALID A CHOICE AS
DOING GOOD?"



LOOK AT
THE COSTUME YOU'RE
WEARING AND TELL ME,
MR. PARKER...



...HAVE YOU
OR HAVE YOU NOT
EMBRACED YOUR
DARKER SELF, AS
WELL?



...



THESE
CHEMICALS...

...THESE
CHEMICALS ARE
DANGEROUS...





HE...HE
KILLED MY
MOM...
...AND DID
SOMETHING
TO ME...
HE
DESERVES
TO DIE--



ESCAPED
YOUR CELL?
RESOURCEFUL
BOY...



JORDAN, WE-
WE DON'T KNOW
THAT FOR SURE.
WHATEVER
THOSE CHEMICALS
ARE...PUT THEM
DOWN...



AFTER
ALL HE'S DONE,
WHY...
...WHY
SHOULD HE
LIVE, MR.
PARKER?



QUITE
RIGHT, MR.
HARRISON...



YOU...
YOU SHUT UP!
MURDERER...



I recognize the
DARKNESS Jordan's
feeling; I'M feeling
it myself.

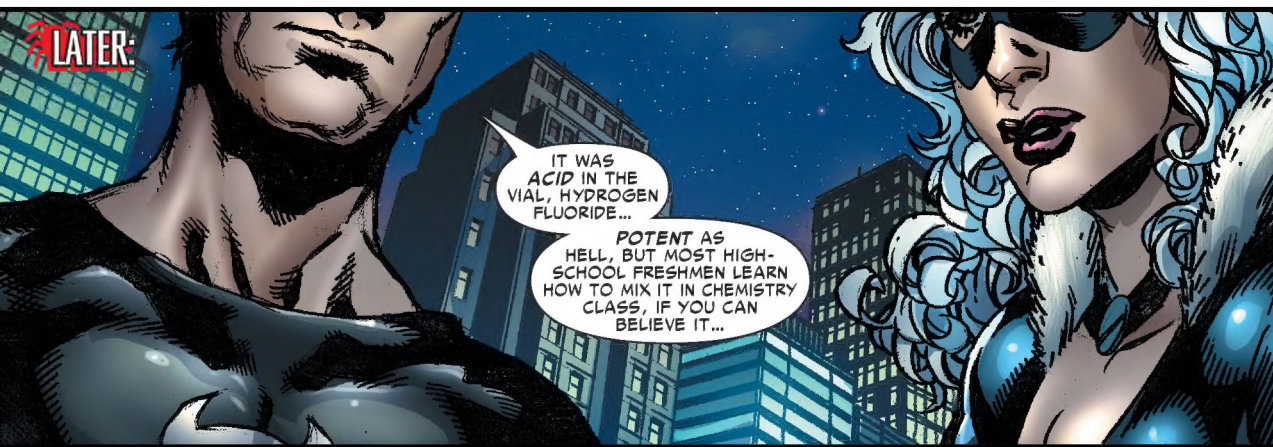


Hyde may
DESERVE
to die--

WHAT
WILL YOU DO,
MR. HARRISON?
WHAT WILL
YOU DO?



But **NOT** by
Jordan's hand--



LATER:

IT WAS
ACID IN THE
VIAL, HYDROGEN
FLUORIDE...

POTENT AS
HELL, BUT MOST HIGH-
SCHOOL FRESHMEN LEARN
HOW TO MIX IT IN CHEMISTRY
CLASS, IF YOU CAN
BELIEVE IT...

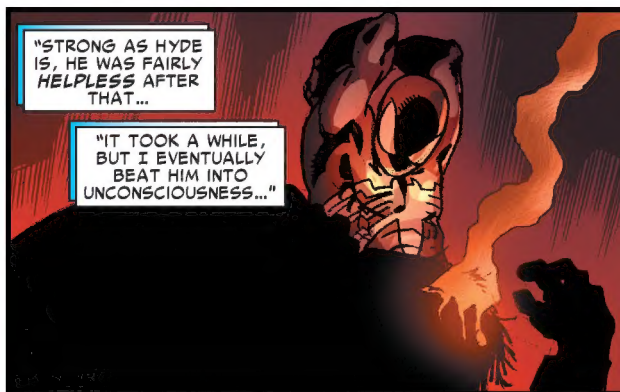


...I TAGGED
IT WITH MY WEBBING,
BUT ENOUGH ACID GOT
ON HYDE'S FACE TO
ALMOST COMPLETELY
BURN IT OFF.



FGSSSSS

"IT BLINDED
HIM, TOO..."



"STRONG AS HYDE
IS, HE WAS FAIRLY
HELPLESS AFTER
THAT..."

"IT TOOK A WHILE,
BUT I EVENTUALLY
BEAT HIM INTO
UNCONSCIOUSNESS..."



SO ALL'S
WELL THAT
ENDS WELL,
SPIDER?



NOT COMPLETELY.

ZABO CREATED ALL THOSE VERSIONS OF ME TO PROVE THAT GIVEN THE PROPER CIRCUMSTANCES...

...A FAMILY MEMBER'S TRAUMATIC DEATH, FOR INSTANCE...

...SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULD BE DRIVEN TO... TO...



...EMBRACE THE DARK SIDE?



AND JORDAN DID. HE WOULD'VE KILLED HYDE IF HE COULD'VE. I SAW THAT...

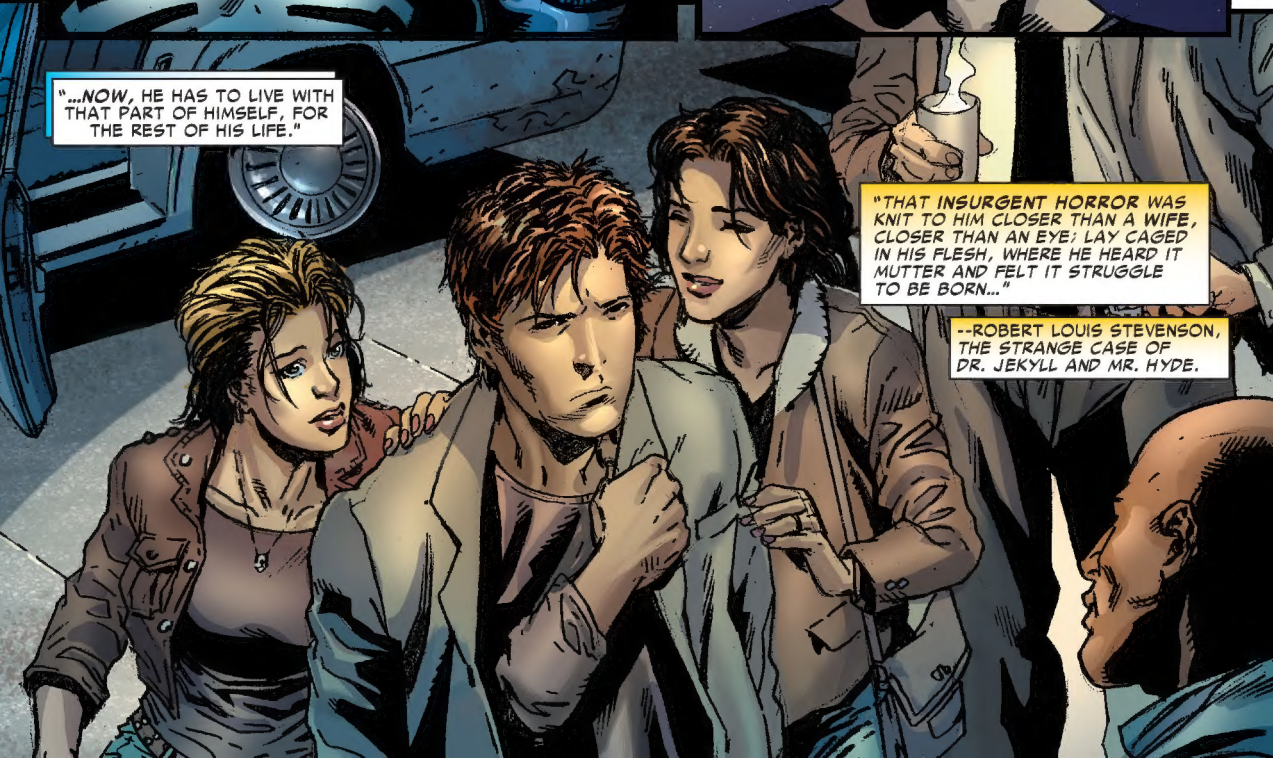
YEAH, BUT YOU KEPT THAT FROM HAPPENING, PETER.

EVEN WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE STILL CLEARHEADED ENOUGH TO HAVE--



--THE DAMAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE, FELICIA, AND...

...AND JORDAN KNOWS HOW CLOSE HE CAME. AND NOW...



"...NOW, HE HAS TO LIVE WITH THAT PART OF HIMSELF, FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE."

"THAT INSURGENT HORROR WAS KNIT TO HIM CLOSER THAN A WIFE, CLOSER THAN AN EYE; LAY CAGED IN HIS FLESH, WHERE HE HEARD IT MUTTER AND FELT IT STRUGGLE TO BE BORN..."

--ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.